

**OPINION 2223 (Case 3345)****DENDROBATIDAE Cope, 1865 (1850) (Amphibia, Anura): family-group name conserved**

**Abstract.** The widely used family-group name DENDROBATIDAE Cope, 1865 (1850) is conserved by giving it precedence over the senior synonym PHYLLOBATIDAE Fitzinger, 1843 whenever the two are considered synonyms. As a further protection of the family name of this group of Neotropical frogs, the generic name *Hysaplesia* Boie in Schlegel, 1826, considered by some authors as a senior synonym of the generic name *Dendrobates* Wagler, 1830, is hereby suppressed.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Amphibia; DENDROBATIDAE; *Dendrobates*; *Phyllobates*; *Hysaplesia*; *Dendrobates tinctorius*; *Phyllobates bicolor*; poison arrow frogs; poison dart frogs.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that:
  - (a) the generic name *Hysaplesia* Boie in Schlegel, 1826 (gender: feminine), type species '*Hyla punctata* Daudin' = *Calamita punctatus* Schneider, 1799 by subsequent designation of Stejneger, 1937 is suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
  - (b) the family-group name DENDROBATIDAE Cope, 1865 (1850) is given precedence over the family-group name PHYLLOBATIDAE Fitzinger, 1843 whenever the two are regarded as synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Dendrobates* Wagler, 1830 (gender: masculine), type species *Rana tinctoria* Cuvier, 1797, by subsequent designation by Duméril & Bibron (1841);
  - (b) *Phyllobates* Bibron, 1840 (gender: masculine), type species *Phyllobates bicolor* Bibron in de la Sagra, 1840, by monotypy.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *tinctoria* Cuvier, 1797, as published in the binomen *Rana tinctoria* (specific name of the type species of *Dendrobates* Wagler, 1830);
  - (b) *bicolor* Bibron, 1840, as published in the binomen *Phyllobates bicolor* (specific name of the type species of *Phyllobates* Bibron in de la Sagra, 1840).
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
  - (a) DENDROBATIDAE Cope, 1865 (1850) (type genus *Dendrobates* Wagler, 1830) with an endorsement that it is to be given precedence over PHYLLOBATIDAE Fitzinger, 1843 (type genus *Phyllobates* Bibron in de la Sagra, 1840) whenever the two names are considered synonyms;

- (b) PHYLLOBATIDAE Fitzinger, 1843 (type genus *Phyllobates* Bibron in de la Sagra, 1840) with an endorsement that it is not to be given priority over DENDROBATIDAE Cope, 1865 (1850) whenever the two names are considered synonyms.
- (5) The genus *Hysaplesia* Boie in Schlegel, 1826 (gender: feminine), type species '*Hyla punctata* Daudin' = *Calamita punctatus* Schneider, 1799, by subsequent designation by Stejneger (1937), is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

### History of Case 3345

An application to conserve the widely used family-group name DENDROBATIDAE Cope, 1865 (1850) for a group of Neotropical frogs by giving it precedence over the senior synonym PHYLLOBATIDAE Fitzinger, 1843, was received from J.M. Savage (*San Diego State University, CA, U.S.A.*), C.W. Myers, D.R. Frost (both *American Museum of Natural History, NY, U.S.A.*) and T. Grant (*Pontifical Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil*) on 4 February 2005. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 64: 255–260. The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2008 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 64: 258–259. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2008 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 17: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Minelli, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Štys, Rosenberg and Zhang.

Negative votes – 2: Lim and van Tol.

Kottelat abstained.

No vote was received from Ng. Pyle was on leave of absence.

Bouchet, voting FOR, cautioned that the name of the work containing the description of *Phyllobates* should be cited as de la Sagra, and not Sagra, as it was cited in the original application. He also mentioned, as he has done elsewhere, that he dislikes conditional reversals of precedence, as they are a potential source of nomenclatural instability. However, he voted in favour of the proposal as there was no alternative offered to conserve the name DENDROBATIDAE. He also suggested that to give credit where it is due, it would have been diplomatic for the authors to invite Dubois to join their application. Failing that, upon receipt of Case 3345, the Secretariat might have considered reviving Dubois' initial application of 1982, which was legitimate and well-founded, though never went to vote due to a perceived shortcoming of one part by a single Commissioner. Voting FOR, Brothers commented that the name *Hylaplesia* (incorrect subsequent spelling of *Hysaplesia*) should probably also be placed on the Index (with the appropriate wording and attributions). Also voting FOR, Štys pointed out that DENDROBATIDAE is one of the most intensely studied families of the anurans. Consequently, he was unpleasantly surprised that no one in the batrachological community cared to comment about its correct name.

## Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*bicolor*, *Phyllobates*, Bibron, 1840, in Cocteau, J.T. & Bibron, G. Reptiles, in de la Sagra, R. (Ed.), *Historia fisica, politica y natural de la Isla de Cuba*. Part 2, *Historia natural*, vol. 8, *Atlas de Zoologia*, pl. 29b.

*Dendrobates* Wagler, 1830, *Natürliches System der Amphibien mit vorangehender Classification der Säugthiere und Vögel. Ein Beitrag zur vergleichenden Zoologie*, vi, p. 202.

DENDROBATIDAE Cope, 1865 (1850), *Natural History Review*, N.S., 5: 100.

*Hysaplesia* Boie in Schlegel, 1826, *Bulletin des Sciences Naturelles et de Géologie* (Paris), 9(2): 239.

*Phyllobates* Bibron, 1840, in Cocteau, J.T. & Bibron, G. Reptiles, in de la Sagra, R. (Ed.), *Historia fisica, politica y natural de la Isla de Cuba*. Part 2, *Historia natural*, vol. 8, *Atlas de Zoologia*, pl. 29b.

PHYLLOBATIDAE Fitzinger, 1843, *Systema Reptilium. Fasciculus primus. Amblyglossae*, p. 32.

*tinctoria*, *Rana*, Cuvier, 1797, *Tableau élémentaire de l'histoire naturelle des animaux*, p. 295.